CONFERENCE OF THE EIGHTEEN-NATION COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT

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CANADA

Revised Working Paper on requests to Governments for information about exchange of seismological data

In an earlier version of the working paper (ENDC/251 of 23 May 1969) the Canadian delegation expressed the view that the problems of verifying a Comprehensiv Test Ban would decrease even though they might not be entirely resolved, if guarante access to original seismological data could be assured. This proposition was a response to UNGA Resolution 2455 (XXIII) which in its preamble took into account "th existing possibilities of establishing, through international cooperation, a volunta exchange of seismic data so as to create a better scientific basis for a national evaluation of seismic events", and in Article 3 expressed "the hope that States will contribute to an effective international exchange of seismic data".

2. As a first step in defining a practical method for achieving such an exchange the Canadian Delegation suggested that two essential points should be clarified: what seismic information would Governments make available, and in what form. The Canadian working paper contained a draft request specifying the details which might be sought from all countries in order to obtain this basic information.

3. At an informal meeting of the ENDC on 13 August, various delegations offered suggestions regarding the procedures proposed by Canada and the specific wording of any requests to Governments for information. On the basis of these suggestions a the discussion during the informal meeting, the Canadian delegation has now amended the draft formulation for the requests to Governments.

4. To the Canadian delegation it would appear essential that the ENDC include in i recommendations to the next General Assembly of the United Nations, a proposal that clarification be sought from Governments as to what seismological information they are prepared to make available. Without attempting to suggest definitive wording fo any UNGA Resolution on this subject, the Canadian delegation considers that a reques from the Secretary-General for this purpose might be based on the following wording:

REQUEST FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ..... CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CREATION OF A WORLD-WIDE EXCHANGE OF SEISMOLOGICAL DATA WHICH WOULD FACILITATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN

In order to assist in clarifying what resources would be available for the eventual establishment of an effective world-wide exchange of seismological information which would facilitate the achievement of a Comprehensive Test Ban, the Secretary-General of the United Nations requests the Government of ..... to supply to him for transmission to the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament a list of all its seismic stations from which it would be prepared to supply records on the basis of guaranteed availability and to provide certain information about each station as set out below:

A. Conventional Seismograph Stations

(i) Name of Station and name and address of the operating organization

(ii) Co-ordinates of station including elevation

(iii) Instrumentation and components recorded together with speed of recording. (This should include operational magnification at one second period for short period and broad bank seismographs and at 15 or 20 seconds for long period instruments. Also a complete response curve in absolute units should be provided).

The Government of ..... is also requested to give information on the geological description of the station foundation and indicate if fully annotated records will be provided, including the precision of the time. It would also be useful to know the time window within which the Government of ..... would be prepared to supply original records or good quality copies, and if the latter, the form of the copies (for example 16, 35 or 70 millimetre film, Xerox copies, etc.). It would be useful if it could be indicated whether the intention is to deposit copies of all records in a seismological centre which makes its data available to everyone, or whether the Government of ..... wishes to guarantee the data only on a bilateral demand.

B. Array Stations

(i) Name of station and the name and address of the operating organization

(ii) Co-ordinates of station and array points, including elevation

(iii) A general account of the instrumentation geometry of the array

(iv) Instrumentation and components recorded, including magnetic tape specifications. (This should include the operational magnification

at one second period for short period or broad band instrumentation and at 15 or 20 seconds for long period instruments. A response curve in absolute units should be provided for each instrument).

(v) A list of components which record on a parallel visual basis.

As under A above, in the interest of obtaining maximum usefulness from an international exchange of data, the Government of ..... is requested to give information on the geological foundation of the array stations, together with complete technical information on the recording medium, the precision of time keeping, etc. It would also be useful to know the time window within which the Government of ..... would be prepared to supply the original records, or as applicable, photographic copy, magnetic tape copy, or good quality microfilm. In the event that the Government of ..... does not envisage depositing copies of all array data automatically in a seismological centre which makes its data available to everyone, it would be useful if the Government of ..... could indicate how long an original magnetic tape recording could be made available for individual demands before the tapes are erased and re-used.

In view of the urgency in making progress in the direction of a solution for a Comprehensive Test Ban, the Secretary-General would greatly appreciate it if the information requested above could be forwarded to him with the least possible delay for transmission to the ENDC.